



# Educational Topic

## Psychologist

### Related Job Titles:

Cognitive psychologist, research psychologist

### Job Description:

Psychologists study the human mind and behavior. They make predictions and collect data to test their predictions through lab experiments or tests, observations, interviews, or questionnaires. They may work at a counseling center, their own office, a hospital, a clinic, university, research center, business, non-profit or government organization. NASA psychologists are usually research psychologists who do research and come up with explanations for how people behave or function in aerospace environments. These studies may include how well humans can use their senses and make decisions, how the environment affects a human's ability to think and work and how well crew members work together and get along in aerospace conditions. Some travel is usually required to attend conferences or conduct research.

### Interests / Abilities:

- Are you a good listener?
- Do you enjoy doing research?
- Do you pay close attention to details?
- Do you work well on your own?
- Do you work well with a team?
- Do you express yourself clearly when speaking and writing?

### Suggested School Subjects / Courses:

- Science (**biology, psychology**)
- Math (statistics)
- Research methods

### Education / Training Needed:

The minimum education required for this position is a bachelor's degree in behavioral science or other appropriate subject from an accredited college or university. This course of study must include at least 20 semester hours of physiology, experimental physiological psychology or other appropriate life science or experience in biotechnology, hardware or other appropriate life science field. To do research, a Ph.D. is highly desired for this position.

### Areas of expertise:

- *Human performance studies*: study how humans behave and function, how the crew works together and how the senses work in aerospace environments
- *Manned systems*: design guidelines for hardware and software to best meet human needs in aerospace environments

## Additional Resources:

- American Psychological Association  
<http://www.apa.org>
- National Association of School Psychologists  
<http://www.naspweb.org>
- Jobs with the Federal Government  
<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>
- Student Educational Employment Programs  
[http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/stud\\_opps/employment/index.htm](http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/stud_opps/employment/index.htm)
- NASA Jobs  
<http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/>
- NASA Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program (SHARP)  
<http://www.mtsibase.com/sharp/>

## What can I do right now?

- Take summer jobs or internships working at an after-school program or club such as the Boys and Girls Club or for summer camps.
- Be a mentor to a younger child.
- If your school has a peer counseling program, sign up.
- Visit Astro-Venture regularly to participate in chats and activities.  
<http://astroventure.arc.nasa.gov>
- Call the American Association of Science and Technology Centers for information on science museums in your area that you might visit.  
(202) 783-7200
- Participate in science fair projects.

- Please take a moment to evaluate this product at:
- [http://ehb2.gsfc.nasa.gov/edcats/educational\\_topic](http://ehb2.gsfc.nasa.gov/edcats/educational_topic)
- Your evaluation and suggestions are vital to continually improving NASA educational materials.
- Thank you.



<http://quest.nasa.gov/people/index.html>

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